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(54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO FISHING LURES

(71) We, DAVID EDWIN JOHN BEER, a British subject, of 40 Efford Road, Higher Compton, Plymouth, Devon, PHILLIP LESLIE THURSTON, a British subject, of 15 Cormorant Drive, Sandy Bay, St. Austell, Cornwall and BARRIE NICHOLAS BROADWAY, a British subject, of 15 Fore Street, St. Maurice, Plympton, Devon, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to fishing lures. The term "fishing lures" is used in the art to refer to an object attachable to a fishing line for the purpose of attracting the attention of fish which it is desired to catch.

Lures of various types are known, and may comprise simply a bright metal object, or a structure which will more nearly resemble a fish. Many lines, are made to spin or move in some way which resembles the movement of a fish. The present invention finds particular utility in connection with lures of this latter type, and especially in connection with lures of the type to which a fishing hook is removably attachable rather than being permanently fixed.

One of the disadvantages with the use of lures having permanently fixed hooks is that the hook can become so firmly embedded in a fishes mouth that it cannot be removed but has to be cut out. When fish are caught as part of a competition, however, it is desirable to bring them ashore undamaged for the scrutiny of the judges; for this reason the hooks must be left undisturbed and consequently the lure cannot be removed and further fishing requires the use of another lure. In the course of an afternoon's or a day's fishing this can involve the use of quite a considerable number of lures. For this reason fishing lines in which the hook is readily detachable from the lure are often used. One known type of such lure is a plastics moulding representing a fish and comprising a hollow body portion and a tail portion largely in the form of a flat web with a tail fin which causes the tail to oscillate from side to side as it is drawn through the water thereby simulating the movement of a real fish. The hollow body portion has a hole at the mouth of the fish which the lure is shaped to represent; there is also an opening at the rear end of the body portion near to where it joins the tail, in what is the underside of the lure when it is in a normal upright orientation of use such as it would adopt when being drawn along to represent a fish swimming along horizontally. Lures of this type are connected to a hook by first threading the end of a line through the mouth along the hollow body portion of the lure and out through the opening in the underside of the rear part of the body portion, and then tying the end of the line to a fishing hook (which is provided with an eye for this purpose). The line is then pulled forwardly to introduce the shank of the hook into the body portion through the opening in the underside of the body portion leaving the barbed and hooked portion projecting from the opening in the underside of the rear of the body portion. The cavity within the body portion is usually relatively large, and in order to be able to introduce the eye of the hook through the opening in the rear part of the body portion, this opening has to be made relatively large also, and certainly considerably larger than the diameter of the shank. This permits the hook to rotate about the longitudinal axis of the body portion of the lure, so that whereas it would preferably extend downwardly from the underside of the lure, it frequently

turns through 90° to project laterally. One disadvantage of this is that when a fish takes the lure, the hook can swivel about the axis of the lure so that the barb does not engage properly in the fish's mouth and the catch is lost.

According to the present invention there is provided a fishing lure of the type comprising a hollow body portion to which a fish hook of the type having a shank with an attachment eye or loop at one end and a generally U-shape portion terminating in a point at the other end is removably attachable by introducing the said one end of the shank into the hollow body portion of the lure through an opening therein, in which there are provided means for interengaging the eye or loop of the hook with the body portion of the lure in such a way as to resist relative rotation of the hook and the body portion of the lure about the longitudinal axis of the shank of the hook.

Preferably the body portion of the lure has an aperture at or adjacent the forward end thereof communicating with the interior of the hollow body portion, through which aperture can be passed a fishing line for attachment to the eye or loop of a fishing hook in use of the lure. In the preferred embodiment of the invention the said aperture communicates with an interior cavity of the hollow body portion along a passageway extending from the interior cavity to the said aperture at or adjacent the forward end of the lure.

In order to provide secure interengagement of the hook with the body portion of the lure the interior cavity of the hollow body portion has a shaped recess at the forward end thereof, where the communicating passage opens into the cavity, into which the eye of a fishing hook is engageable. This is particularly convenient since the eye of a hook is normally formed as a ring the plane of which extends transverse the plane defined by the curve of the hook so that the most advantageous construction for the shaped recess is one in which it has a generally rectangular cross section and acts to engage the eye of a fishing hook so as to hold the hook in a position lying in or parallel to a median plane extending from top to bottom of the lure.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the hollow body portion is shaped to represent a part of a fish and has a flexible tail portion extending from the rear thereof. In such an embodiment it is preferred that the opening in the body portion of the lure, through which the shank of a fishing hook can be introduced, is located on the underside of the body portion at or towards the rear part of the body portion.

Two embodiments of the present invention will now be more particularly described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic axial section of a first embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 2 is a corresponding axial section of a second embodiment of the invention.

Referring first to Figure 1, there is shown a fishing lure generally indicated 11, comprising an integrally moulded element having a body portion 12 and a tail portion 13. The body portion 12 has a cavity separated into two parts 14*a* and 14*b*, by a constriction 15. The forward compartment of the cavity has an opening 16 at the front end thereof, representing the mouth of the lure, and a smoothly tapering portion 17 at the rear end thereof, leading to the constriction 15. Immediately rearwardly of the constriction 15 there is a slight enlargement in the form of a rearwardly facing recess 18 which has a rectangular cross section.

The recess 18 links the constriction 15 with the rear compartment 14*a*, which is open to the outside through an opening 19 in the underside of the lure. In use of the lure the shank of a fishing hook can be introduced through the opening 19 into the interior cavity of the lure leaving the hooked and barbed part projecting out through the opening 19. As is known, the eye of a conventional fishing hook is formed as a ring the plane of which extends substantially transverse the plane defined by the hook itself, although other forms such as an open loop, either in the plane of or perpendicular to the plane of the hook could alternatively be used.

In use of the lure, a fishing line is introduced through the opening 16 into the forward compartment 14*b* of the cavity within the lure 11. The leading end of the line is guided by the smoothly tapering portion 17 through the constriction 15, and it passes out through the recess 18 into the rear compartment 14*a*. Since the lure is resilient, when the line has been pushed to the rear end of the rear compartment 14*a* the lure can be bent in order to be able to extract the end of the line through the opening 19 in the underside of the lure.

The line is then tied to the eye of a fishing hook and the shank of the hook drawn through the opening 19 along the rear compartment 14*a* until the eye lodges in the recess 18 which, having a rectangular cross-section the general plane of which is parallel to the general plane of the ring defining the eye of the hook, holds this firmly against twisting. The cross-section of the constriction 15 is only slightly greater than the line itself so that the eye of the hook is retained in the recess 18 when the line is pulled tight.

Since the eye of the hook lodges firmly within the recess 18, the shank of the hook

is prevented from turning with respect to the body portion 12 of the lure.

In practice it has been found that the shoulder between the bottom of the recess 18 and the constriction 15 can be ruptured by an excessive tug on the line, particularly if a large fish is hooked. The embodiment of Figure 2 overcomes this disadvantage. In Figure 2 the same reference numerals are used for parts of the lure which correspond to those of the embodiment of Figure 1.

In Figure 2 there is shown a lure comprising, as in the embodiment of Figure 1, a body portion 12 and a tail portion 13. In this embodiment, however, there is only one interior cavity 20 (corresponding to the rear compartment 14*a* of the embodiment of Figure 1) and this communicates through a rectangular recess 18 with a narrow passageway 21 terminating in a forward opening 16 at the mouth of the lure. This provides much greater reinforcement for the shoulders formed by the bottom of the recess 18. The passageway 21 guides the end of a fishing line inserted through the opening 16 just as well as the tapering walls 17 of the forward compartment 14*b* of the embodiment of Figure 1, but there is no risk of the hook being pulled out forwardly even by a quite considerable tug on the line.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A fishing lure of the type comprising a hollow body portion to which a fish hook of the type having a shank with an attachment eye or loop at one end and a generally U-shape portion terminating in a point at the other end is removably attachable by introducing the said one end of the shank into the hollow body portion of the lure through an opening therein, in which there are provided means for interengaging the eye or loop of the hook with the body portion of the lure in such a way as to resist relative rotation of the hook and the body portion of the lure about the longitudinal axis of the shank of the hook.

2. A fishing lure as claimed in Claim 1, in which the body portion of the lure has an aperture at or adjacent the forward end thereof communicating with the interior of the hollow body portion, through which aperture can be passed a fishing line for attachment to the eye or loop of the fishing hook in use of the lure.

3. A fishing lure as claimed in Claim 2, in which the said aperture communicates with an interior cavity of the hollow body portion along a passageway extending from the interior cavity to the said aperture at or adjacent the forward end of the lure.

4. A fishing lure as claimed in Claim 3, in which the interior cavity of the hollow body portion has a shaped recess at the forward end thereof, where the communicating passage opens into the cavity, into which the eye of a fishing hook is engageable.

5. A fishing lure as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the hollow body portion is shaped to represent a part of a fish and has a flexible tail portion extending from the rear thereof.

6. A fishing lure as claimed in Claim 5, in which the opening in the body portion of the lure, through which the shank of a fishing hook can be introduced, is located on the underside of the body portion at or towards the rear part of the body portion.

7. A fishing lure as claimed in any of Claims 4, 5 or 6, in which the shaped recess has a generally rectangular cross section and acts to engage the eye of a fishing hook so as to hold the hook in a position lying in or parallel to a median plane extending from top to bottom of the lure.

8. A fishing lure substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

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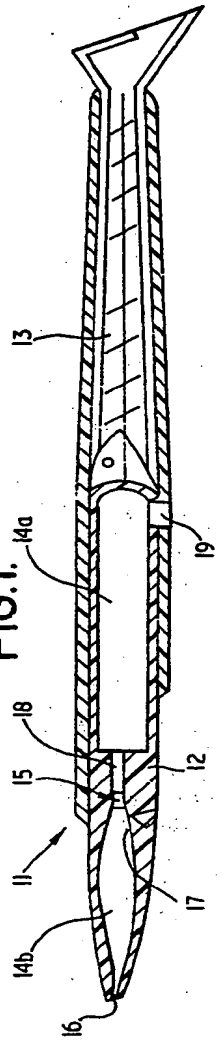

FIG.1.

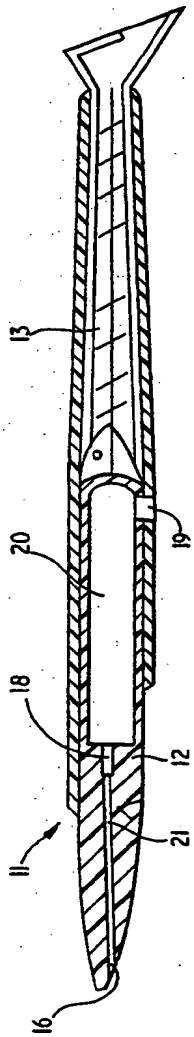

FIG. 2